

Docket: 3356-137

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Vernon D. Ortenzi et al. :
Serial No.: To Be Assigned. : Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned.
Filed: October 15, 2003 : Examiner: To Be Assigned.
For: **Pressure Management Apparatus and Methods**

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.102(c)

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby petition that the application be accorded special status under 37 C.F.R. 1.102(c) in accordance with MPEP 708.02 V. Applicants submit that this invention materially enhances the quality of the environment of mankind by contributing to the restoration or maintenance of basic life-sustaining natural elements.

Service stations typically employ underground storage tanks to store fuel or other chemicals to be dispensed by an above ground dispensing station. Underground storage tanks and associated piping pose potential environmental concerns. It is desirable to maintain the structural integrity of the tank to prevent leakage of fuel and/or other chemicals from the tank to the surrounding environment. Moreover, the tank must include a sufficient closure to minimize or prevent loss of fuel or chemical vapors from the tank while permitting selective access to the interior of the tank. An airtight removable closure may minimize or prevent vapor loss but can result in damage to the tank if pressure differentials are permitted to develop between the tank interior and the surrounding environment.

Applicants' invention includes claims directed to a pressure management apparatus for coupling to an end of a vent pipe. By minimizing or preventing over-pressurization and

under-pressurization conditions, exemplary pressure management apparatus in accordance with embodiments of the present invention might prevent damage to the tank that can result in leakage of fuel and/or other chemicals from the tank to the surrounding environment. Moreover, in accordance with the present invention, exemplary embodiments include features designed to minimize or prevent vapor loss from the tank interior to the surrounding environment during normal tank pressure conditions.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request special status for this application. No fee is believed to be required for this petition as set forth under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c).

Respectfully submitted,

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